U.S. Department of the Interior
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STANDARDS DETERMINATION DOCUMENT

November 6, 2008

Harold Rother Farms, Inc. (2704502), Pete Goicoechea (2704555), and Paris Livestock (2704538) Term Grazing Permit Renewals on the Railroad Pass Allotment (00601)

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BLM

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Standards and Guidelines Assessment
The Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Area were developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and approved in 1997. Standards and guidelines are likened to objectives for healthy watersheds, healthy native plant communities, and healthy rangelands. Standards are expressions of physical and biological conditions required for sustaining rangelands for multiple uses. Guidelines point to management actions related to livestock grazing for achieving the standards.

This Standards Determination Document evaluates and assesses livestock grazing management achievement of the Standards and conformance with the Guidelines for the Railroad Pass Allotment in the Ely BLM District. This document does not evaluate or assess achievement of the Wild Horse and Burro or the Off Highway Vehicle Standards or conformance to their respective Guidelines.

The Standards were assessed for the Railroad Pass Allotment by a BLM interdisciplinary team. Documents and publications used in the assessment process include the Soil Survey of Western White Pine Area, Nevada, Parts of White Pine County and Eureka Counties (USDA-NRCS 1997); Ecological Site Descriptions for Major Land Resource Area 28B (USDA-NRCS 2003); Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (USDI-BLM et al. 2000); Sampling Vegetation Attributes (USDI-BLM et al. 1996); and the National Range and Pasture Handbook (USDA-NRCS 1997). A complete list of references is included at the end of this document. All are available for public review in the Ely BLM District Office. The interdisciplinary team used rangeland monitoring data, professional observations, and photographs to assess achievement of the Standards and conformance with the Guidelines.

The Railroad Pass Allotment encompasses approximately 27,025 public land acres. The grazing permit area occurs entirely within White Pine County, and is situated approximately 75 miles northwest of Ely, Nevada. The western portion of this allotment borders the Battle Mountain BLM District and the northern portion borders the Elko BLM District. The majority of the Railroad Pass Allotment is within the Diamond Hills South Wild Horse Herd Management Area. This allotment is located within sage grouse, deer, elk, and antelope habitat. No wilderness occurs within or adjacent to the permitted area.

For Harold Rother Farms, Inc., the current term permit is issued for the period 03/01/2006 to 02/28/2011. This is a cattle permit with a total grazing preference of 1,800 animal unit months (AUMs). Of these, 1,800 AUMs are active, 0 AUMs are suspended nonuse, and 736 AUMs are voluntary non-use. The current term permit authorizes approximately 265 head of cattle on the native rangelands of the Railroad Pass Allotment with a season of use from 06/01 to 09/30.

For Pete Goicoechea, the current term permit is issued for the period of 03/01/2006 to 02/28/2011. This is a cattle permit with a total grazing preference of 511 AUMs. Of these, 511 AUMs are active, 0 AUMs are suspended nonuse, and 211 AUMs are voluntary non-use. The

current term permit authorizes approximately 75 head of cattle on the native rangelands of the Railroad Pass Allotment with a season of use from 06/01 to 09/30.

For Paris Livestock, the current term permit is issued for the period of 10/15/2006 to 10/14/2016. This is a sheep permit with a total grazing preference of 1,231 AUMs on the Railroad Pass Allotment. Of these, 1,231 AUMs are active and 0 AUMs are suspended nonuse. The current term permit authorizes approximately 467 head of sheep on the native rangelands of the Railroad Pass Allotment with a season of use from 04/15 to 11/15 and approximately 365 head of sheep on the Corta Seeding of the Railroad Pass Allotment with a season of use from 04/05 to 11/15. The 540 AUMs in the Corta Seeding may also be used for cattle in lieu of sheep from 04/05 to 11/15.

The primary vegetation types on the Railroad Pass Allotment are big sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata*) with Thurber's needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*) and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) and Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*) with Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*) and needleandthread (*Hesperostipa comata*) plant communities. The primary ecological sites associated with these vegetation types are a Loamy site (028BY007NV) and a Shallow Loam site (028BY080NV). The Corta Seeding within the Railroad Pass Allotment is a crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) seeding. There are also a couple of old burns that were rehabilitated with crested wheatgrass, Russian wildrye (*Psathyrostachys juncea*), and basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*).

Seven key areas have been established and monitored over the past twenty years on the allotment based on accessibility and general use by livestock, vegetation, and ecological range sites. Key area RR-1 occurs in the Big Burn area and was seeded during fire rehabilitation making Russian wildrye and crested wheatgrass with Wyoming big sagebrush dominate species on site. Key area RR-2 was unable to be located in 2006 and 2007 therefore was put out of service. Key area RR-3 occurs in the Small Burn area and was seeded during fire rehabilitation making crested wheatgrass and basin wildrye dominate species on site. Key area RR-4 and RR-6 both occur in the South Pasture with key forage species include big sagebrush, bluegrass (*Poa sp.*) and bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*). These areas are associated with a Loamy 10-12" P.Z. (028BY007NV) ecological site. Key areas RR-5 and RR-7 occur within the Corta Seeding with crested wheatgrass dominating. In 2007, a study site (SS-1) was setup and monitoring data was collected in the North Pasture of the Railroad Pass Allotment. Key species on this site are big sagebrush, bluegrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail. The associated ecological site is a Shallow Loam 8-10" P.Z. (028BY080NV). A summary of monitoring data is located in Appendix I of this document.

PART 1. STANDARD CONFORMANCE REVIEW

Standard 1. Upland Sites

Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and land form.

As indicated by:

- Indicators are canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation and rock, appropriate to potential of the site.

Determination:

X Achieving the Standard

□ Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards achieving

□ Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard

Causal Factors

□ Livestock are a contributing factor to not achieving the standard.

□ Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard

□ Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:

X In conformance with the Guidelines

□ Not in conformance with the Guidelines

Conclusion: Standard Achieved

Rangeland monitoring data and professional observation indicates that overall soil condition is currently being maintained on the Railroad Pass Allotment. Soils are stable and productive and the topsoil is holding in place with the exception of some minor pedestaling. No rills or gullies were noted. Line intercept cover data collected on the allotment shows that the allotment is meeting the standard. Vegetative cover registered within or close to the appropriate or expected ground cover percentage for all of the key areas where data was collected (See Appendix I, Table 4-1 and Table 4-2).

Key area RR-1 occurs on a Cassiro-Belmill association (414; NRCS 1997). These soils typically have moderate to moderately slow permeability. Monitoring data indicate that this key area has a vegetative cover of 16.3 percent. Slight pedestaling was noted along with no signs of compaction, rills, or gullies. This is as expected for the site based on professional observations.

Key area RR-3 occurs on a Palinor-Shabliss soil association (286; NRCS 1997). These soils typically have moderate permeability. Monitoring data indicate that this key area has a vegetative cover of 7.8 percent. This is lower than expected for the site, however is not negatively affecting permeability based on professional observations. No pedestaling, compaction, rills, or gullies were noted.

Key area RR-4 occurs on a Fax-Hunnton-Cassiro soil association (1090; NRCS 1997) with a Loamy 10-12" P.Z. ecological site (028BY007NV). These soils typically have a moderately slow to slow permeability. The approximate ground cover (basal and ground) for a Loamy site is 20-30 percent. Monitoring data indicate that this key area has a vegetative cover of 14.1 percent. This is lower than the potential for the site, however is not negatively affecting infiltration and permeability. Slight pedestaling was noted but no signs of compaction, rills, or gullies were noted.

Key area RR-5 occurs on a Cassiro-Belmill association (414; NRCS 1997). These soils typically have moderate to moderately slow permeability. Monitoring data indicate that this key area has a vegetative cover of 14.9 percent. This is as expected for the site based on professional observations. No pedestaling, compaction, rills, or gullies were noted.

Key area RR-6 occurs on a Fax-Hunnton-Cassiro soil association (1090; NRCS 1997) with a Loamy 10-12" P.Z. ecological site (028BY007NV). These soils typically have a moderately slow to slow permeability. The approximate ground cover (basal and ground) for a Loamy site is 20-30 percent. Monitoring data indicate that this key area has a vegetative cover of 32.5 percent. The site is maintaining cover higher than the potential for the site, however is not negatively affecting infiltration and permeability. No sign of compaction were noted and no pedestaling, rills, or gullies were noted.

Key area RR-7 occurs on a Cassiro-Belmill association (414; NRCS 1997). These soils typically have moderate to moderately slow permeability. Monitoring data indicate that this key area has a vegetative cover of 7.2 percent. This is slightly lower than expected for the site, however is not negatively affecting permeability based on profession observations. No pedestaling, compaction, rills, or gullies were noted.

Study site SS-1 occurs on a Palinor-Shabliss soil association (286; NRCS 1997) with a Shallow Loam 8-10" P.Z. ecological site (028BY080NV). These soils typically have moderate permeability. The approximate ground cover (basal and ground) for a Shallow Loam site is 10-20 percent. Monitoring data indicate that this key area has a vegetative cover of 23.4 percent. The site is maintaining cover higher than the potential for the site, however is not negatively affecting infiltration and permeability. No pedestaling, compaction, rills, or gullies were noted.

Standard 2. Riparian and Wetland Sites
Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.

As indicated by:

- Stream side riparian areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, large woody debris, or rock is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows. Elements indicating proper functioning condition such as avoiding accelerating erosion, capturing sediment, and providing for groundwater recharge and release are determined by the following measurements as appropriate to the site characteristics:

    - Width/Depth ratio; Channel roughness; Sinuosity of stream channel; Bank stability; Vegetative cover (amount, spacing, life form); and other cover (large woody debris, rock).

    - Natural springs, seeps, and marsh areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation is present to facilitate water retention, filtering, and release as indicated by plant species and cover appropriate to the site characteristics.

- Chemical, physical and biological water constituents are not exceeding the state water quality standards.

The above indicators shall be applied to the potential of the site.

Determination:
□ Achieving the Standard
□ Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards
X Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard

Causal Factors
□ Livestock are a contributing factor to not achieving the standard.
X Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard
X Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:
X In conformance with the Guidelines
□ Not in conformance with the Guidelines

Conclusion: Not achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress towards. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the Standard, failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions.

Three springs on the Railroad Pass Allotment were assessed for proper functioning condition (PFC) in 2008. Little Joe Spring and Burn Spring were determined to be inappropriate for PFC assessment due to development. These springs are considered to be representative of livestock use of riparian areas across the allotment. Also see Appendix I, Table 7-1 for monitoring data.

The unnamed spring in T24N R55E Sec. 8 E1/2 was assessed in 2008 by an interdisciplinary team and found to be in proper functioning condition.

Dora Spring was assessed in 2008 by an interdisciplinary team and found to be functioning at risk with a downward trend. It was noted that this reduced functionality was due to drought, low flows, water development, and upland pinyon-juniper encroachment. Grazing use by deer, wild horses, and cattle was also noted during the PFC assessment however, utilization data collected at Dora Spring indicate that utilization in 2008 was at a moderate level.

Portuguese Spring was assessed in 2008 by an interdisciplinary team and found to be nonfunctional or unknown. It was noted that this reduced functionality was due to the fact that it was a dry source with no water.

Standard 3. Habitat:
Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.

As indicated by:

- Vegetation composition (relative abundance of species);
- Vegetation structure (life forms, cover, height, or age class);
- Vegetation distribution (patchiness, corridors);
- Vegetation productivity; and
- Vegetation nutritional value.

Determination:
□ Achieving the Standard
X Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards
□ Not Achieving the Standard, not making significant progress toward standard

Causal Factors
□ Livestock are a contributing factor to not achieving the standard.
X Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard
X Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:
X In conformance with the Guidelines
□ Not in conformance with the Guidelines

Conclusion: Not achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the Standard, failure to meet the standard is also related to other issues or conditions.

Rangeland monitoring data and professional observations show that vegetation structure and distribution on the Railroad Pass Allotment are consistent with the Rangeland Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) and/or expected plant community for the area. Vegetative structure is composed of varying age classes and heights of plants. Vegetation is distributed across the landscape as expected for both ecological sites and seeded areas. These are indicators that the Railroad Pass Allotment is close to meeting the standard for habitat.

On the seeded portions of the Railroad Pass Allotment, composition and production data was also collected (See Appendix I, Table 6-1). Current production (air-dry) on RR-1 is 150 pounds per acre, RR-3 is 60 pounds per acre, RR-5 is 448 pounds per acre, and RR-7 is 809 pounds per acre. Production on RR-1 and RR-3 is somewhat lower than expected while RR-5 and RR-7 are as expected for the sites based on professional observations. Composition of these sites is dominated by seeded species with some native species returning. This is as expected for these sites based on professional observation.

However on the Railroad Pass Allotment native vegetation composition and productivity differ somewhat from the ESD (See Appendix I, Table 5-1). Monitoring data indicate that total annual production (air-dry) is 216 pounds per acre for RR-4 and 416 pounds per acre for RR-6. The ESD indicates that during unfavorable years total annual production (air-dry) should be

approximately 600 pounds per acre. Percent vegetation composition by weight shows that shrubs are higher than what is expected while grasses are lower when compared to the historic climax plant community (HCPC) in the ESD. However dominate species on the ground are the same as the dominate species in the ESD. This is further expressed by the similarity index for the area which is 42 percent (RR-4) and 38 percent (RR-6). This shows that the vegetative components are present however differ in percent composition.

A review of past documents and professional observations indicate that while the Railroad Pass Allotment is not achieving the standards, it is making progress towards the standard.

PART 2. ARE LIVESTOCK A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO NOT MEETING THE STANDARDS? SUMMARY REVIEW:

Standard #1: Upland Sites
The Standard is being achieved.

Standard #2: Riparian and Wetlands
The Standard is not being achieved. During PFC assessments livestock were not identified as a causal factor in reduced functionality of riparian areas on the Railroad Pass Allotment. Grazing by deer, wild horses, and cattle was a suspected contributor at Dora Spring, however actual utilization was moderate. Not meeting this standard is due to drought, low water flows, water development and/or upland encroachment at Dora Spring and Portuguese Spring.

Standard #3: Habitat
The Standard is not being achieved. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the Standard. Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions. Heavy wild horse use in the Railroad Pass Allotment is a continuing problem. Also, this area is prone to frequent low precipitation and drought which is also considered a contributing factor (See Appendix I, Table 8-1 and Graph 8-1).

On the Railroad Pass Allotment, utilization has been slight to moderate which is within proper use levels over the majority of the allotment. Higher utilization has occurred, generally on crested wheatgrass which persists during higher use levels. Actual livestock use levels have been much lower than allowable use levels over the past ten years due largely to voluntary non-use for resource protection by the cattle permittees (See Appendix I, Table 2-1, Table 2-2, and Table 2-3).

PART 3. GUIDELINE CONFORMANCE REVIEW AND SUMMARY

Grazing is in conformance with all applicable Guidelines as provided in the Northeastern Great Basin Standards and Guidelines.

PART 4. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONFORM WITH GUIDELINES AND ACHIEVE STANDARDS

Recommendations:

1. Continue rangeland monitoring of this allotment for livestock in compliance with proper allowable use levels for the Railroad Pass Allotment

2. On the Railroad Pass Allotment, the seasons of use are recommended to remain:
   - 06/01 to 09/30 for cattle use on native range
   - 04/05 to 11/15 for sheep use on native range
   - 04/05 to 11/15 for sheep or cattle use on Corta Seeding

3. On the Railroad Pass Allotment, the Active AUMs are recommended to remain:
   - 1,800 Active AUMs for Harold Rother Farms, Inc.
   - 511 Active AUMs for Pete Goicoechea
   - 1,231 Active AUMs for Paris Livestock

4. Continue the rest-rotation system for cattle grazing that is in place on the Railroad Pass Allotment as follows:
   - Year 1 (2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017) – North of drift fence
   - Year 2 (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018) – South of drift fence
   - This rotation will be repeated, alternating pasture use. Deviation from this schedule will be allowed as associated with proposed burn or vegetative treatments to allow for re-establishment of the vegetation.

5. Salt and/or mineral supplements for livestock shall be located no closer than ½ mile from water sources, riparian areas, sensitive sites, and cultural resource sites.

6. Maximum utilization levels on the Railroad Pass Allotment will be established as follows:
   - Perennial native grasses: 50% current year's growth
     This use level is necessary to allow desirable key herbaceous species to 1) develop above ground biomass for protection of soils, 2) to contribute to litter cover, and 3) develop roots to improve carbohydrate storage for vigor, reproduction, and improve/increase desirable perennial cover.
   - Perennial shrubs and half-shrubs: 50% use on current annual production.
     This use level is necessary to allow desirable perennial key browse species to develop branchlets and woody stature able to withstand the pressure of grazing use. Use would be read in April or prior to the spring re-growth. Use during spring contributes to following season's use level.

- Perennial non-native seedings: 65% current year's growth
  This use level is necessary to allow desirable key herbaceous species to 1) develop above ground biomass for protection of soils, 2) to contribute to litter cover, and 3) develop roots to improve carbohydrate storage for vigor, reproduction, and improve/increase desirable perennial cover.
- Livestock will be moved to another authorized pasture or removed from the allotment before utilization objectives are met or no later than 2 days after meeting the utilization objectives. Any deviation in livestock movement will require authorization from the authorized officer.

7. Use in the Railroad Pass Allotment will be in accordance with the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) issued November 9, 1995. There will be no sheep use on native range identified in Map 1 of the FMUD from June 1 to October 31 (See Appendix II).

8. Cattle grazing on native range will also be in accordance with the Livestock Grazing Agreement for Railroad Pass Allotment dated April 2001. The permittees agree to take voluntary non-use of 947 AUMs of the permitted use for the period of March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2011. Therefore only 1364 AUMs will be authorized for cattle use on native rangelands for the annual grazing period from 06/01 to 09/30 for the term of this permit.

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APPENDIX I
DATA SUMMARY
Railroad Pass Allotment

1. Key Areas and Ecological Sites

A key area is a relatively small portion of a pasture or allotment selected because of its location, use, or grazing value as a monitoring point for grazing use. It is assumed that key areas, if properly selected, will reflect the current grazing management over the pasture or allotment as a whole (NRCS 1997). Key areas represent range conditions, trends, seasonal degrees of use, and resource production and values. Table 1-1 depicts key areas and their location within the Railroad Pass Allotment as well as the ecological site associated with the key area in native rangeland and dominate soils of each site.

An ecological site is distinctive kind of land with specific physical characteristics that differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation (NRCS 1997). Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) are used for inventory, evaluation, and management of native vegetation communities. The ecological site of a key area is determined based on several factors including soils, topography, and plant community.

Table 1-1.Railroad Pass Allotment Key Areas

Key Area	Pasture	Location	Ecological Site	Dominate Species of HCPC	Soil Mapping Unit
RR-1	North (Big Burn)	T26N R55E S32 SE1/4 SW1/4	---	---	414--Cassiro-Belmill association
RR-3	North (Small Burn)	T25N R55E S9 SW1/4 SW1/4	---	----	286--Palinor-Shabliss association
RR-4	South	T24N R55E S3 SW1/4 SE1/4	Loamy 10-12" P.Z. (028BY007NV)	big sagebrush, needlegrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass	1090--Fax-Hunnton-Cassiro association
RR-5	Corta Seeding	T25N R55E S21 NW1/4 SE1/4	---	---	414--Cassiro-Belmill association
RR-6	South	T24N R55E S5 SW1/4 SW1/4	Loamy 10-12" P.Z. (028BY007NV)	big sagebrush, needlegrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass	1090--Fax-Hunnton-Cassiro association
RR-7	Corta Seeding	T25N R55E S21 SE1/4	---	---	414--Cassiro-Belmill association
SS-1	North	T25N R55E S8 NE1/4 NE1/4	Shallow Loam 8-10" P.Z. (028BY080NV)	Wyoming big sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, and needleandthread	286--Palinor-Shabliss association

2. Licensed Livestock Use

Over the grazing seasons from 1999 to 2008, livestock permitted use on the Railroad Pass Allotment for Harold Rother Farms was 1,800 AUMs in a cattle only operation. During this same time period, livestock actual use ranged from a high of 1,063 AUMs in 2001 to a low of 124 AUMs in 2000. Livestock use has varied dependent on available forage due to growing conditions and voluntary non-use agreements. Table 2-1 summarizes the licensed actual use data for this time period.

Table 2-1.Railroad Pass Allotment Actual Use by Harold Rother Farms, Inc.

Grazing Year	Actual Use (AUMs)	% Actual Use of Permitted Use (AUMs)	Grazing Year	Actual Use (AUMs)	% Actual Use of Permitted Use (AUMs)
1999	221	12%	2004	679	38%
2000	124	7%	2005	217	12%
2001	1063	59%	2006	900	50%
2002	473	26%	2007	662	37%
2003	408	23%	2008	523	29%

Over the grazing seasons from 1999 to 2008, livestock permitted use on the Railroad Pass Allotment for Pete Goicoechea was 511 AUMs in a cattle only operation. During this same time period, livestock actual use ranged from a high of 409 AUMs in 2001 to a low of 0 AUMs in 2004-2006 and 2008. Livestock use has varied dependent on available forage due to growing conditions and voluntary non-use agreements. Table 2-2 summarizes the licensed actual use data for this time period.

Table 2-2.Railroad Pass Allotment Actual Use by Pete Goicoechea

Grazing Year	Actual Use (AUMs)	% Actual Use of Permitted Use (AUMs)	Grazing Year	Actual Use (AUMs)	% Actual Use of Permitted Use (AUMs)
1999	311	61%	2004	0	0%
2000	229	45%	2005	0	0%
2001	409	80%	2006	0	0%
2002	321	63%	2007	154	30%
2003	214	42%	2008	0	0%

Over the grazing seasons from 1999 to 2008, livestock permitted use on the Railroad Pass Allotment for Paris Livestock was 1,231 AUMs in a sheep and cattle operation. During this same time period, livestock actual use ranged from a high of 992 AUMs in 2006 to a low of 449 AUMs in 2003. Livestock use has varied dependent on available forage due to growing conditions. Table 2-3 summarizes the licensed actual use data for this time period.

Table 2-3.Railroad Pass Allotment Actual Use by Paris Livestock.

Grazing Year	Cattle Actual Use (AUMs)	Sheep Actual Use (AUMs)	Total Actual Use (AUMs)	% Actual Use of Permitted Use (AUMs)
1999	286	664	950	77%
2000	299	601	900	73%
2001	329	647	976	79%
2002	269	447	679	55%
2003	126	470	449	36%
2004	0	530	530	43%
2005	0	558	558	45%
2006	354	638	992	81%
2007	0	615	615	50%
2008	0	757	757	61%

3. Utilization

Utilization is the estimation of the proportion of annual production consumed or destroyed by animals (Swanson 2006). The general utilization objective for all allotments in the Ely BLM District according to the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP – August, 2008) is to "Manage livestock grazing on public lands to provide for a level of livestock grazing consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and watershed function and health" (Ely RMP, p. 85). The Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook gives guidelines to determine the proper use levels by plant category (grasses, forbs, and shrubs) and by grazing season (spring, summer, fall, winter, yearlong). Proper use levels for all allotments are also implied by the Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and Grazing Administration (February 1997).

Key forage plant utilization method was used to collect utilization data at the key areas as well as 12 other areas. Utilization for the allotment is summarized in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1.Railroad Pass Allotment Utilization

Key Area	Key Species	Grazing Year	Utilization	Total
RR-01	crested wheatgrass	2002	moderate	46%
		2007	severe	86%
		2007*	heavy	68%
		2008	moderate	42%
	Russian wildrye	2008	light	28%
RR-03	crested wheatgrass	2006	severe	86%
RR-04	Russian wildrye	2007	light	29%
		2008	light	35%
	bottlebrush squirreltail	2008	slight	2%
	needleandthread	2007	light	27%
	bluegrass	2007	light	21%
RR-05	crested wheatgrass	2006	heavy	72%
		2007	light	26%
RR-06	bluebunch wheatgrass	2006	light	40%
		2007	light	22%
		2007*	slight	14%
		2008	slight	16%
	antelope bitterbrush	2007	slight	11%
		2008	light	27%
	bluegrass	2006	heavy	64%
		2007	slight	12%
	bottlebrush squirreltail	2006*	heavy	72%
		2008	slight	2%
	Russian wildrye	2006	light	36%
		2006*	light	35%
		2007*	slight	20%
		2008	light	38%
RR-07	crested wheatgrass	2007	moderate	48%
		2007*	light	24%
		2006	heavy	64%
Corta Seeding	crested wheatgrass	2002	heavy	78%
below Dora Spring	combined riparian grasses	2008	moderate	44%
above Dora Spring	combined riparian grasses	2008	light	22%
Portuguese Spring	sedges	2006	severe	84%

near Burn Spring	crested wheatgrass	2006	severe	84%
	Russian wildrye	2006	light	29%
	ryegrass	2008	light	15%
1	Russian wildrye	2006	slight	16%
2	Indian ricegrass	2007	moderate	59%
	Russian wildrye	2007	light	29%
3	Indian ricegrass	2007	moderate	54%
	Russian wildrye	2007	moderate	42%
4	crested wheatgrass	2007	severe	81%
5	Indian ricegrass	2006	moderate	50%
6	crested wheatgrass	2006	heavy	78%
7	Russian wildrye	2006	moderate	46%
	bottlebrush squirreltail	2006	severe	84%
8	bluegrass	2007	moderate	54%
	Russian wildrye	2007	slight	20%
* measured near key area				

4. Line Intercept Cover Studies

Canopy cover is the percent of ground covered by a vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of foliage, including small openings (Swanson 2006). The Line Intercept Method is a commonly used method of determining the relative percent live foliar or canopy cover of a range site by plant class (tree, shrub, grass, forb, or annual). The method also estimates the percent live foliar cover by plant species. The results are then compared to the appropriate cover for each ecological site as indicated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Rangeland Ecological Site Descriptions. Results are also compared to general known healthy rangelands.

Line intercept cover studies have been conducted at the six key areas and one study site on the Railroad Pass Allotment in 2008. Table 4-1 summarizes the cover data collected at key areas on native rangeland. Table 4-2 presents the cover data collected at key areas in seedings.

Table 4-1.Railroad Pass Allotment Vegetation Cover on Native Rangeland.

Key Area	Range Site	Existing Cover (%)	ESD Approx. Cover (%)
RR-4	Loamy 10-12	14.1%	20-30%
RR-6	Loamy 10-12	32.5%	20-30%
SS-1	Shallow Loamy 8-10	23.4%	10-20%

Table 4-2.Railroad Pass Allotment
Vegetation Cover on Seedings.

Key Area	Existing Cover (%)
RR-1	16.3%
RR-3	7.8%
RR-5	14.9%
RR-7	7.2%

5. Similarity Index of Ecological Site Inventory

A similarity index is the percentage of a specific vegetation state plant community that is presently on the site (NRCS 1997). Similarity index is usually computed in reference to the historic climax plant community (HCPC) and is an expression of how similar the existing plant community is to HCPC. Also note that HCPC is not always the most desirable plant community to manage for.

When the similarity index is computed, a seral stage can be derived. Seral stages are the developmental stages of an ecological succession (NRCS 1997). A similarity index of 0 to 25 percent represents an early seral plant community, 26 to 50 percent represents a mid-seral plant community, 51 to 75 percent represents a late seral plant community, and 76 to 100 percent represents a climax plant community.

Similarity index is calculated as a percent composition by air dry weight. The site is inventoried to determine the current percent composition by weight on an air dry basis. These numbers are then compared to the percent composition by weight on an air dry basis of the HCPC in the Rangeland Ecological Site Description for the site. To calculate the similarity index, current composition cannot exceed that of HCPC. This yields percent allowable. The sum of all allowable percentages equals the similarity index.

Table 5-1 summarizes data used to calculate similarity index for the Railroad Pass Allotment.

Table 5-1.Total Annual Yield and Composition of Railroad Pass Allotment Key Areas

Key Area: RR-4
Date: 07/14/2008
Range Site: Loamy 10-12" P.Z. (028BY007NV)

Plant Common Name	Plant symbol	Current % Composition by Weight (air dry)	HCPC % Composition by Weight (air dry)*	% Allowable
Indian ricegrass	ACHY	1%	2-5%	1%
bluegrass	POA	13%	2-8%	8%
basin wildrye	LECI4	4%	3%	3%
bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	12%	3%	3%
phlox	PHLOX	3%	2%	2%
big sagebrush	ARTR2	66%	15-25%	25%

Similarity Index: 42% (mid seral stage)
Overall Production: 261 pounds per acre (air dry wt.)
Plant community dynamics: Where management results in abusive livestock use, big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, bottlebrush squirreltail, and Sandberg's bluegrass increase, while Thurber needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass and other desirable forage species decrease. Cheatgrass readily invades this site following disturbances. Singleleaf pinyon and Utah juniper invade this site where it occurs adjacent to pinyon-juniper woodlands. When pinyon and juniper occupy this site they compete with other species for available light, moisture, and nutrients. If pinyon-juniper canopies are allowed to close, they can eliminate all understory vegetation.

Key Area: RR-6
Date: 07/14/2008
Range Site: Loamy 10-12" P.Z. (028BY007NV)

Plant Common Name	Plant symbol	Current % Composition by Weight (air dry)	HCPC % Composition by Weight (air dry)*	% Allowable
bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSP	trace	15-30%	---
bluegrass	POA	5%	2-8%	5%
basin wildrye	LECI4	1%	3%	1%
bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	8%	3%	3%`
big sagebrush	ARTR2	76%	15-25%	25%
Douglas' rabbitbrush	CHVI8	10%	3%	3%
common snowberry	SYAL	1%	3%	1%

Similarity Index: 38% (mid seral stage)
Overall Production: 416 pounds per acre (air dry wt.)
Plant community dynamics: Where management results in abusive livestock use, big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, bottlebrush squirreltail, and Sandberg's bluegrass increase, while Thurber needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass and other desirable forage species decrease. Cheatgrass readily invades this site following disturbances. Singleleaf pinyon and Utah juniper invade this site where it occurs adjacent to pinyon-juniper woodlands. When pinyon and juniper occupy this site they compete with other species for available light, moisture, and nutrients. If pinyon-juniper canopies are allowed to close, they can eliminate all understory vegetation.

*from Ecological Site Description

6. Current Composition and Production of Seeded Areas

Key areas within the seeded portions of the Railroad Pass Allotment were inventoried to determine the current percent composition by weight on an air dry basis. This was completed using a double sampling technique. Current composition and production data collected in 2008 is summarized in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1.Current Composition and Production of Seeded Areas on Railroad Pass Allotment

Key Area	Plant Common Name	Plant symbol	Current Production (lbs./ac.; air dry wt.)	Current % Composition by Weight (air dry)
RR-1	crested wheatgrass	AGCR	7	5%
	wildrye	ELYLE	69	46%
	bluegrass	POA	10	7%
	Indian ricegrass	ACHY	11	7%
	bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	3	2%
	phlox	PHLOX	16	11%
	annual mustard	BRASS	14	9%
	Wyoming big sagebrush	ARTRW	20	13%
		Total:	**150**	
RR-3	crested wheatgrass	AGCR	49	82%
	basin wildrye	LECI4	11	18%
	cheatgrass	BRTE	trace	---
	bluegrass	POA	trace	---
		Total:	**60**	
RR-5	crested wheatgrass	AGCR	338	75%
	western wheatgrass	PASM	28	6%
	bluegrass	POA	12	3%
	lupine	LUPIN	66	15%
	phlox	PHLOX	3	1%
	cheatgrass	BRTE	trace	---
	milkvetch	ASTRA	trace	---
	false dandelion	NOTHO5	trace	---
		Total:	**448**	
RR-7	crested wheatgrass	AGCR	795	98%
	western wheatgrass	PASM	14	2%
	cheatgrass	BRTE	trace	---
	phlox	PHLOX	trace	---
	bluegrass	POA	trace	---
		Total:	**809**	

7. Proper Functioning Condition of Riparian Areas

Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) is the method used by the BLM to assess riparian health and functionality. The process is completed by an interdisciplinary (ID) team. The team looks at hydrology, vegetation, and erosion/deposition characteristics of the site in order to determine if the riparian area is in proper functioning condition, functioning at risk, or nonfunctional.

PFC was completed on three springs on the Railroad Pass Allotment in 2008. Table 7-1 summarizes the findings of the ID teams. Two addition springs were visited and determined inappropriate for PFC assessment.

Table 7-1.PFC on the Railroad Pass Allotment

Riparian Area	Date	Functionality (notes)
Portuguese Spring	8/19/2008	Non-functional (dry source)
Dora Spring	8/19/2008	Functioning at Risk (drought; low flows; water development; and grazing use by deer, wild horses, and cattle)
unnamed spring (T24N R55E S8 E1/2)	8/19/2008	Proper Functioning Condition
Little Joe Spring	7/30/2008	Developed source, no riparian area
Burn Spring	7/30/2008	Developed source, no riparian area

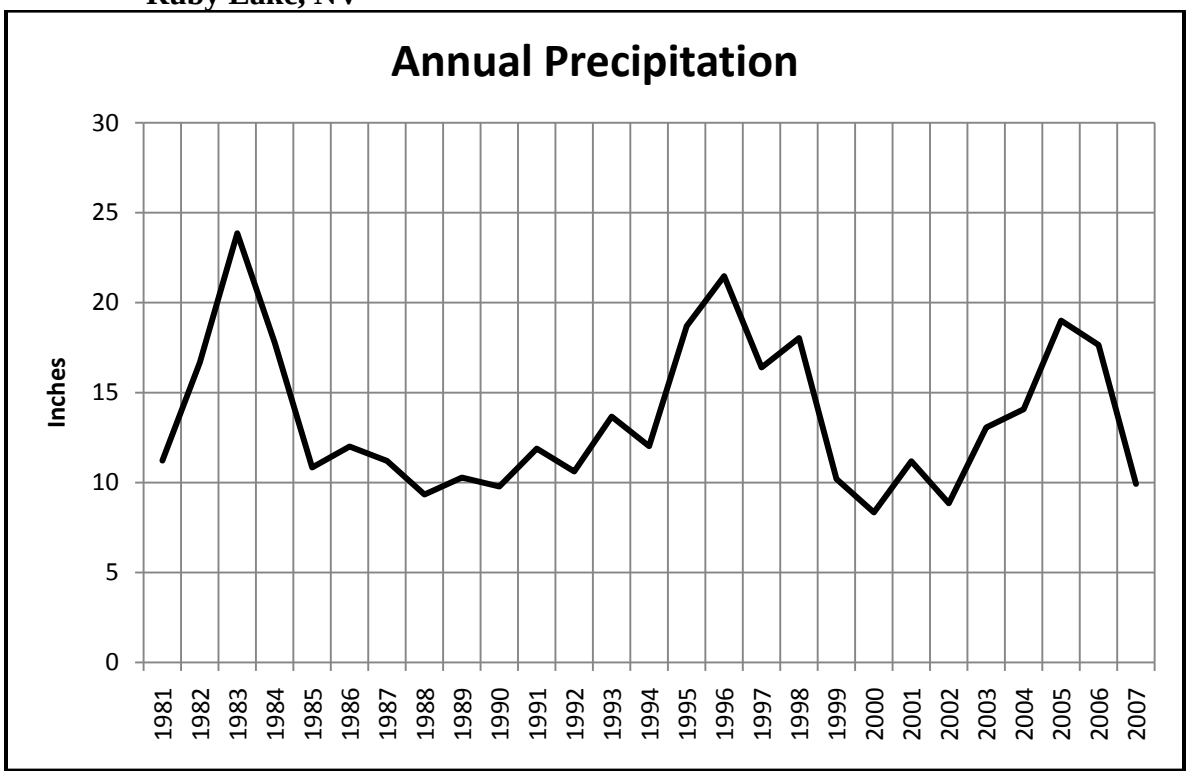
8. Precipitation Data

Annual precipitation greatly influences growing condition of forage species and is often correlated to available forage. Historical climate data from the Western Regional Climate Center at the Ruby Lake, Nevada weather station provides an accurate representation of the annual precipitation on the Railroad Pass Allotment. Table 8-1 and Graph 8-1 summary annual precipitation data collected since 1981.

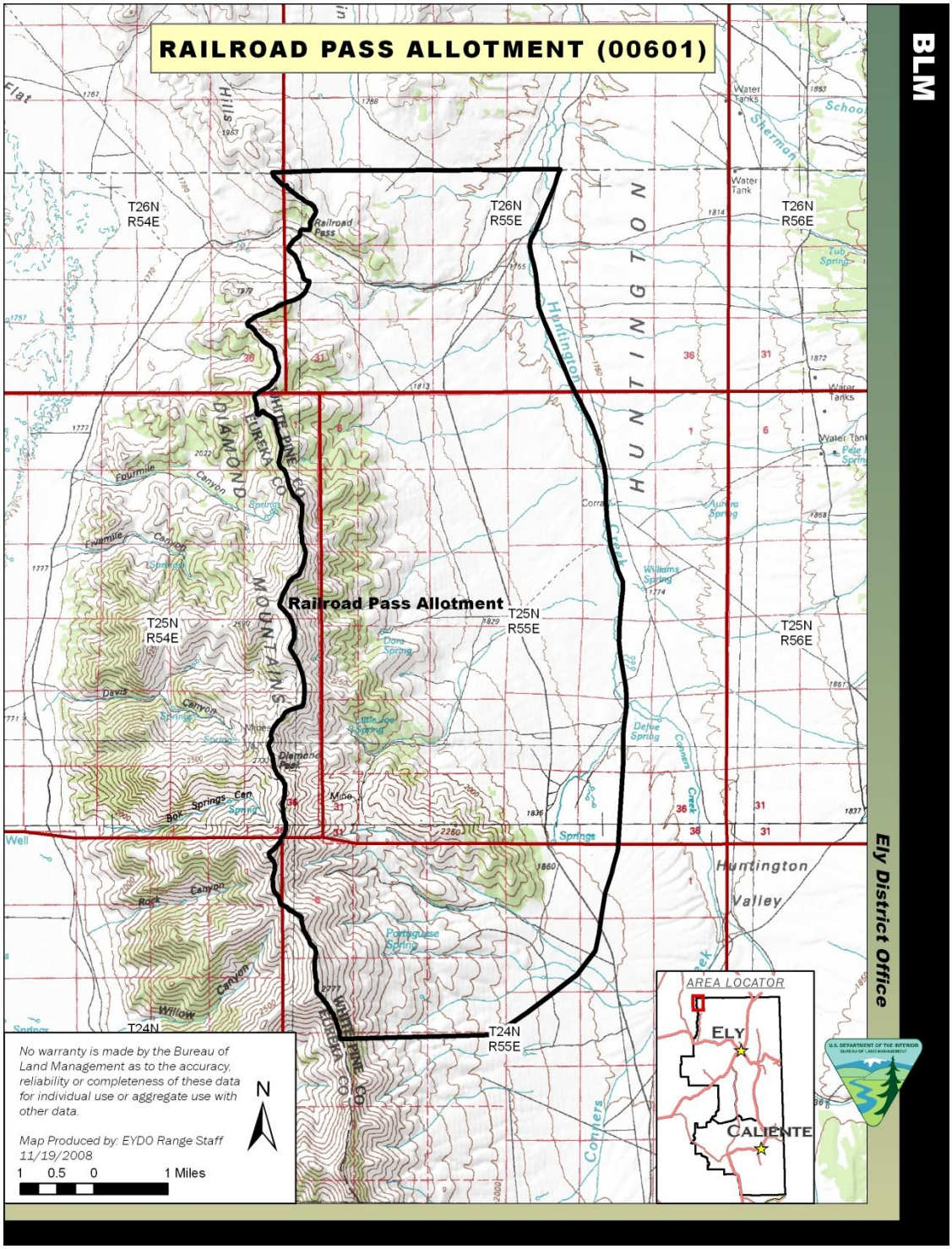
Table 8-1.Western Regional Climate Center Precipitation Data from Ruby Lake, NV

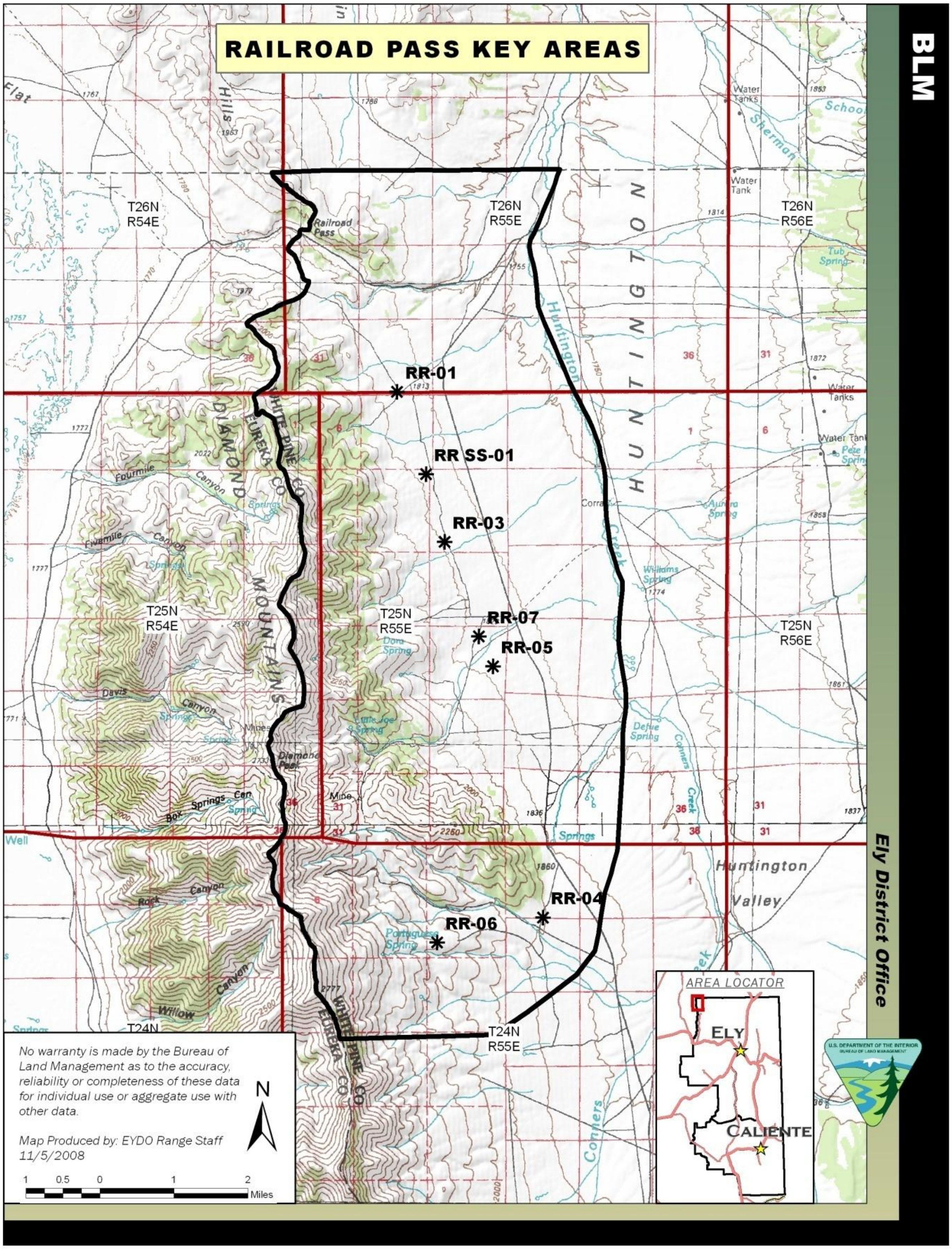
YEAR	ANNUAL PRECIP. (inches)	YEAR	ANNUAL PRECIP. (inches)	YEAR	ANNUAL PRECIP. (inches)
1981	11.22	1990	9.78	1999	10.20
1982	16.67	1991	11.89	2000	8.34
1983	23.86	1992	10.62	2001	11.19
1984	17.78	1993	13.67	2002	8.85
1985	10.84	1994	12.02	2003	13.06
1986	12.00	1995	18.70	2004	14.08
1987	11.20	1996	21.48	2005	19.00
1988	9.34	1997	16.40	2006	17.65
1989	10.28	1998	18.03	2007	9.92

Graph 8-1.Precipitation Data (1981-2007) from Western Regional Climate Center from Ruby Lake, NV

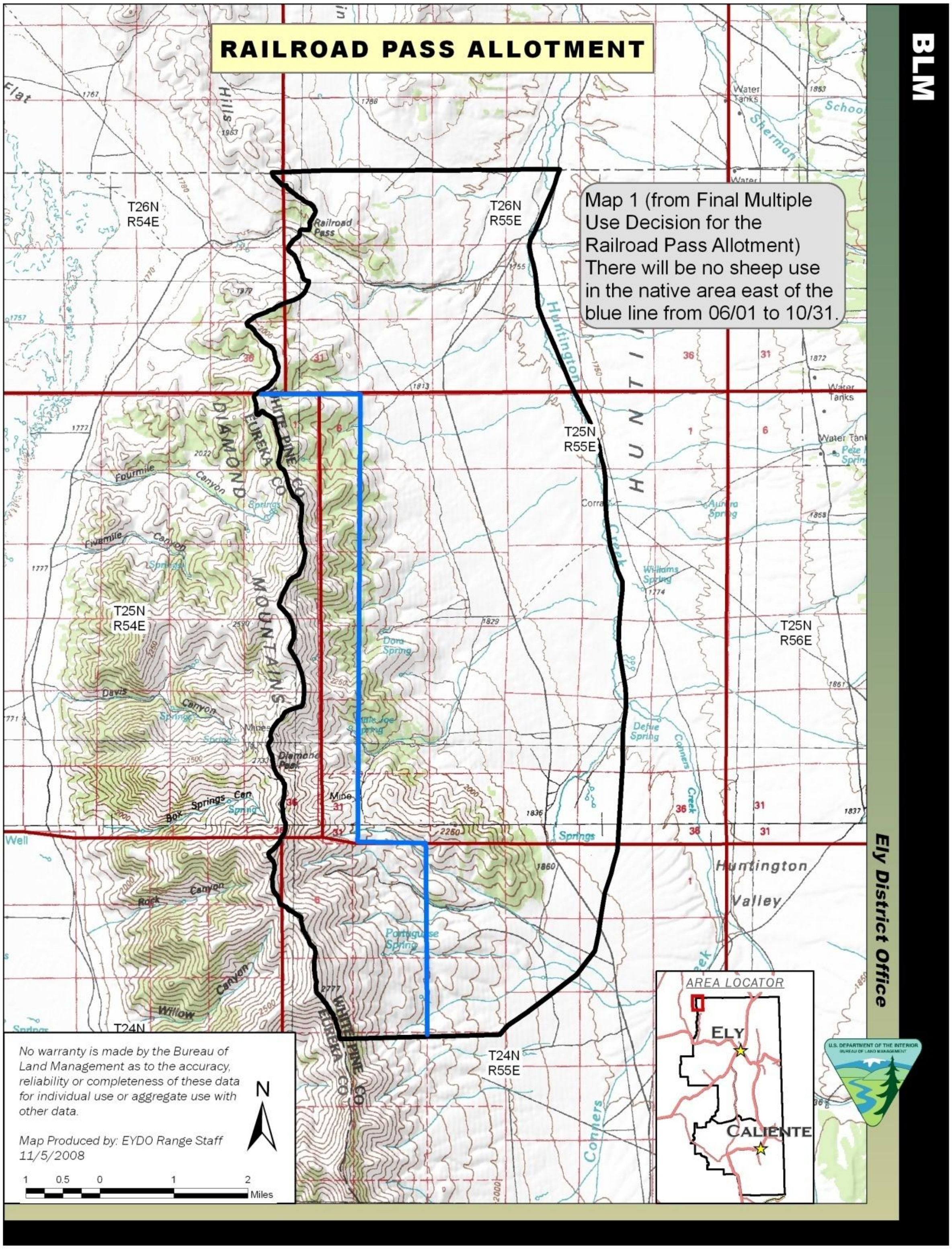


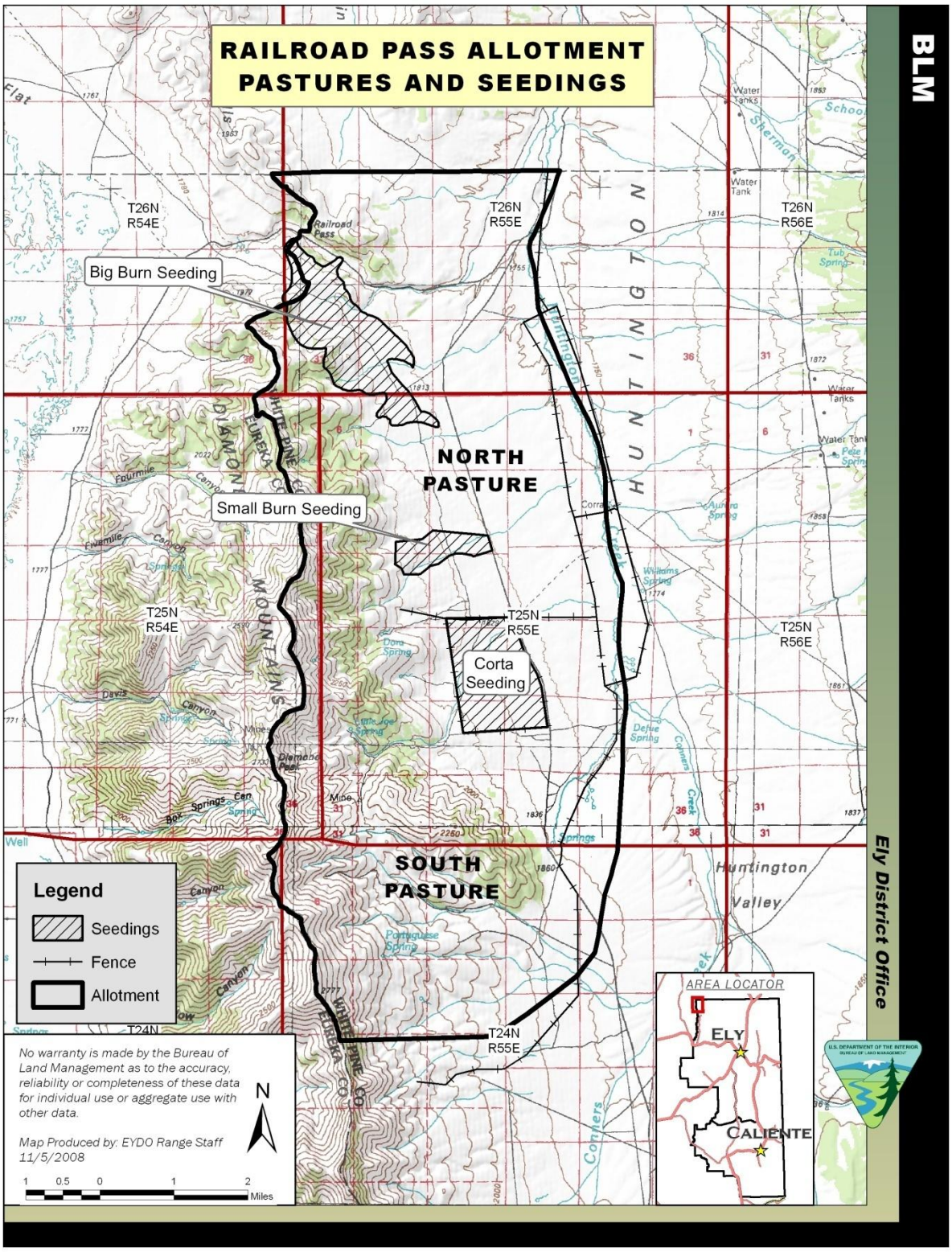
APPENDIX II
MAPS
Railroad Pass Allotment

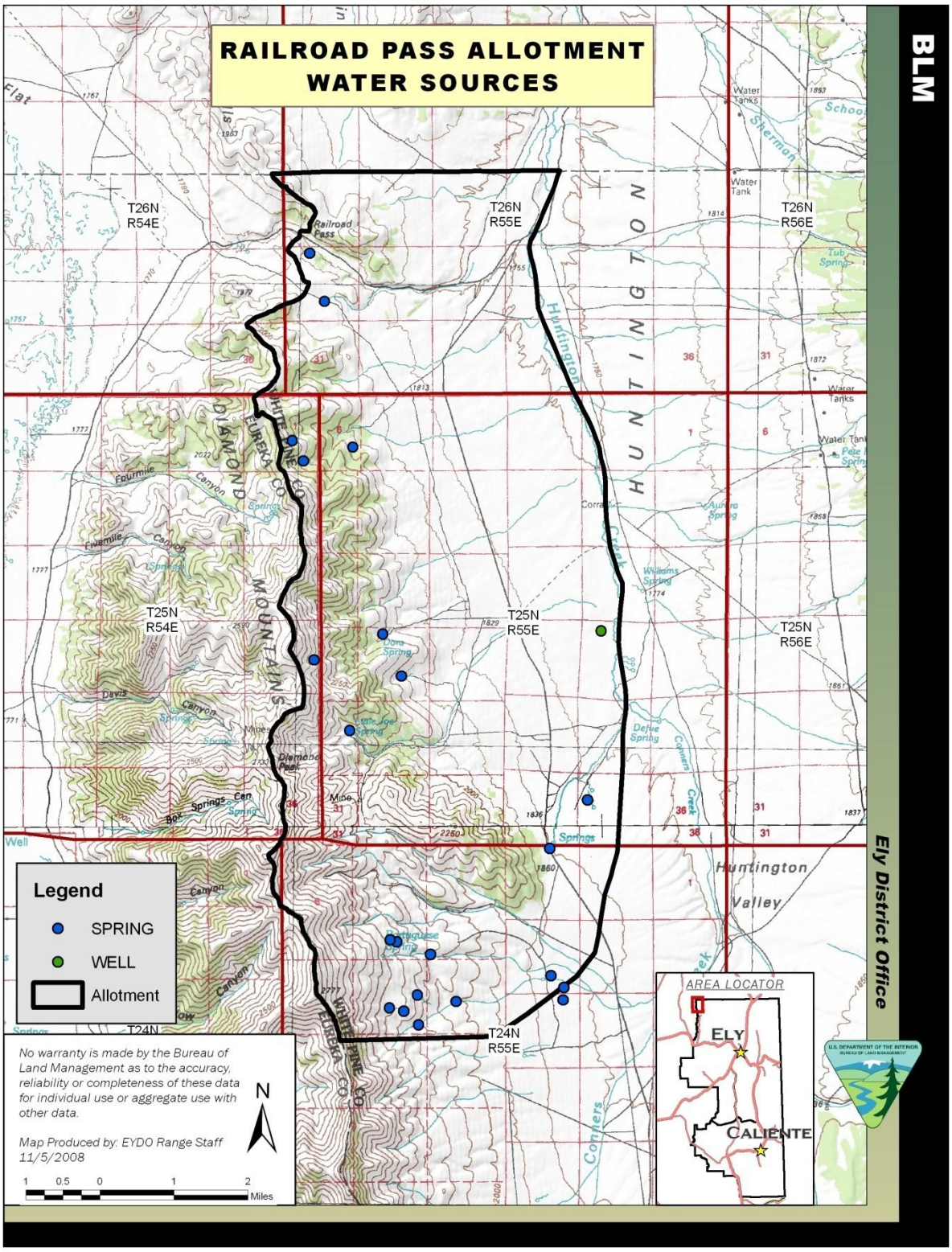




RAILROAD PASS KEY AREAS
BLM
Ely District Office
RR-01
RR SS-01
RR-03
RR-07
RR-05
RR-04
RR-06
T26N R54E
T26N R55E
T26N R56E
T25N R54E
T25N R55E
T25N R56E
T24N R55E
DIAMOND MOUNTAINS
HUNTINGTON
Huntington Valley
AREA LOCATOR
ELY
CALIENTE
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: EYDO Range Staff 11/5/2008
Miles


RAILROAD PASS ALLOTMENT
BLM
Map 1 (from Final Multiple Use Decision for the Railroad Pass Allotment) There will be no sheep use in the native area east of the blue line from 06/01 to 10/31.
T26N R54E
T26N R55E
T25N R55E
T25N R54E
T25N R56E
T24N R55E
DIAMOND MOUNTAINS
Huntington Valley
Ely District Office
AREA LOCATOR
ELY
CALIENTE
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: EYDO Range Staff 11/5/2008
N
Miles


RAILROAD PASS ALLOTMENT
PASTURES AND SEEDINGS
BLM
Ely District Office
T26N
R54E
T26N
R55E
T26N
R56E
T25N
R54E
T25N
R55E
T25N
R56E
T24N
R55E
Big Burn Seeding
Small Burn Seeding
Corta
Seeding
NORTH
PASTURE
SOUTH
PASTURE
HUNTINGTON
MOUNTAINS
Huntington
Valley
Legend
Seedings
Fence
Allotment
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: EYDO Range Staff
11/5/2008
N
1 0.5 0 1 2
Miles
AREA LOCATOR
ELY
CALIENTE


RAILROAD PASS ALLOTMENT
WATER SOURCES
BLM
Ely District Office
T26N
R54E
T26N
R55E
T26N
R56E
T25N
R54E
T25N
R55E
T25N
R56E
T24N
R55E
Railroad Pass
HUNTINGTON
DIAMOND
MOUNTAINS
EUREKA CO
WHITE PINE CO
Huntington Valley
Legend
SPRING
WELL
Allotment
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: EYDO Range Staff
11/5/2008
N
1 0.5 0 1 2
Miles
AREA LOCATOR
ELY
CALIENTE

APPENDIX III
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Railroad Pass Allotment

Harold Rother Farms:

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number/Kind	Grazing Period Begin End	% Public Land*	Type Use	AUMs**
Railroad Pass 00601	265 Cattle	06/01 to 09/30	100	Active	1063

*% Public Land is the percent of public land for billing purposes.
**AUMs may differ from Active Permitted Use due to a rounding difference with the number of livestock and the period of use.

Allotment AUMs Summary

Allotment Name	ACTIVE AUMS	SUSPENDED AUMS	GRAZING PERMITTED USE
Railroad Pass	1800	0	1800

Livestock Management Practices - Terms and Conditions
In accordance with 43 CFR §4130.3 and §4130.3-2 the following terms and conditions shall be included in the term grazing permit for Harold Rother Farms, Inc. for the Railroad Pass Allotment:

Railroad Pass Allotment (00601):

1. A rest rotation system will be continued for cattle grazing on the Railroad Pass Allotment as outlined below:
    a. Year 1 (2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017) – North of drift fence
    b. Year 2 (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018) – South of drift fence
    c. This rotation will be repeated, alternating pasture use. Deviation from this schedule will be allowed as associated with proposed burn or vegetative treatments to allow for re-establishment of the vegetation.
2. To improve livestock distribution, the placement of mineral or salt supplements will be a minimum distance of ½ mile from water sources. These supplements will also be placed no closer than ½ mile from riparian areas, sensitive sites, and cultural resource sites. Use of nutritional supplements (not forage) is encouraged to improve the ability of livestock to utilize forage and to improve livestock distribution across the allotment.
3. Grazing in the Railroad Pass Allotment will be in accordance with the Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards and Guidelines and the Final Multiple Use Decision dated November, 9, 1995.
4. Grazing will also be in accordance with the Livestock Grazing Agreement for Railroad Pass Allotment dated April 2001. The permittee agrees to take voluntary non-use of 736 AUMs of the 1800 AUMs of permitted use for the period of March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2011. Therefore only 1064 AUMs of livestock grazing will be authorized for the annual grazing period of 06/01 to 09/30 for the term of this permit.

5. Maximum allowable use levels will be established as follows:
    a. Perennial native grasses: 50% current year's growth
    b. Perennial shrubs and half-shrubs: 50% use on current annual production.
    c. Perennial non-native seedings: 65% current year's growth
    d. Livestock will be moved to another authorized pasture or removed from the allotment before utilization objectives are met or no later than 2 days after meeting the utilization objectives. Any deviation in livestock movement will require authorization from the authorized officer.

Pete Goicoechea:

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number/Kind	Grazing Period Begin End	% Public Land*	Type Use	AUMs**
Railroad Pass 00601	75 Cattle	06/01 to 09/30	100	Active	301

*% Public Land is the percent of public land for billing purposes.
**AUMs may differ from Active Permitted Use due to a rounding difference with the number of livestock and the period of use.

Allotment AUMs Summary

Allotment Name	ACTIVE AUMS	SUSPENDED AUMS	GRAZING PERMITTED USE
Railroad Pass	511	0	511

Livestock Management Practices - Terms and Conditions
In accordance with 43 CFR §4130.3 and §4130.3-2 the following terms and conditions shall be included in the term grazing permit for Pete Goicoechea for the Railroad Pass Allotment:

Railroad Pass Allotment (00601):

1. A rest rotation system will be continued for cattle grazing on the Railroad Pass Allotment as outlined below:
    a. Year 1 (2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017) – North of drift fence
    b. Year 2 (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018) – South of drift fence
    c. This rotation will be repeated, alternating pasture use. Deviation from this schedule will be allowed as associated with proposed burn or vegetative treatments to allow for re-establishment of the vegetation.
2. To improve livestock distribution, the placement of mineral or salt supplements will be a minimum distance of ½ mile from water sources. These supplements will also be placed no closer than ½ mile from riparian areas, sensitive sites, and cultural resource sites. Use of nutritional supplements (not forage) is encouraged to improve the ability of livestock to utilize forage and to improve livestock distribution across the allotment.
3. Grazing in the Railroad Pass Allotment will be in accordance with the Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards and Guidelines and the Final Multiple Use Decision dated November, 9, 1995.
4. Grazing will also be in accordance with the Livestock Grazing Agreement for Railroad Pass Allotment dated April 2001. The permittee agrees to take voluntary non-use of 211

AUMs of the 511 AUMs of permitted use for the period of March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2011. Therefore only 300 AUMs of livestock grazing will be authorized for the annual grazing period of 06/01 to 09/30 for the term of this permit.

5. Maximum allowable use levels will be established as follows:
    a. Perennial native grasses: 50% current year's growth
    b. Perennial shrubs and half-shrubs: 50% use on current annual production.
    c. Perennial non-native seedings: 65% current year's growth
    d. Livestock will be moved to another authorized pasture or removed from the allotment before utilization objectives are met or no later than 2 days after meeting the utilization objectives. Any deviation in livestock movement will require authorization from the authorized officer.

Paris Livestock:

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number/Kind	Grazing Period Begin End	% Public Land*	Type Use	AUMs**
Railroad Pass 00601	467 Sheep	04/05 to 11/15	100	Active	691
Railroad Pass 00601—Corta Seeding	365 Sheep	04/05 to 11/15	100	Active	540

*% Public Land is the percent of public land for billing purposes.
**AUMs may differ from Active Permitted Use due to a rounding difference with the number of livestock and the period of use.

Allotment AUMs Summary

Allotment Name	ACTIVE AUMS	SUSPENDED AUMS	GRAZING PERMITTED USE
Railroad Pass	1231	0	1231

Livestock Management Practices - Terms and Conditions

In accordance with 43 CFR §4130.3 and §4130.3-2 the following terms and conditions shall be included in the term grazing permit for Paris Livestock for the Railroad Pass Allotment:

Railroad Pass Allotment (00601):

1. Grazing in the Railroad Pass Allotment will be in accordance with the Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards and Guidelines, and the Final Multiple Use Decision dated November, 9, 1995.
2. Livestock grazing capacity for the Corta Seeding within the Railroad Pass Allotment is established at 540 AUMs to be used exclusively within the seeding and may be either sheep or cattle use from 04/05 to 11/15
3. There will be no sheep grazing in native range identified in Map 1 of the Final Multiple Use Decision from 06/01 to 10/31 (also see Appendix II).
4. To improve livestock distribution, the placement of mineral or salt supplements will be a minimum distance of ½ mile from water sources. These supplements will also be placed

no closer than ½ mile from riparian areas, sensitive sites, and cultural resource sites. Use of nutritional supplements (not forage) is encouraged to improve the ability of livestock to utilize forage and to improve livestock distribution across the allotment.

5. Maximum allowable use levels will be established as follows:
    a. Perennial native grasses: 50% current year's growth
    b. Perennial shrubs and half-shrubs: 50% use on current annual production.
    c. Perennial non-native seedings: 65% current year's growth
    d. Livestock will be moved to another authorized pasture or removed from the allotment before utilization objectives are met or no later than 2 days after meeting the utilization objectives. Any deviation in livestock movement will require authorization from the authorized officer.

Additional Stipulations Common to All Grazing Allotments:

1. Livestock numbers identified in the Term Grazing Permit are a function of seasons of use and permitted use. Deviations from those livestock numbers and seasons of use may be authorized on an annual basis where such deviations would not prevent attainment of the multiple-use objectives for the allotment.
2. Deviations from specified grazing use dates will be allowed when consistent with multiple-use objectives. Such deviations will require an application and written authorization from the authorized officer prior to grazing use.
3. The authorized officer is requiring that an actual use report (form 4130-5) be submitted within 15 days after completing your annual grazing use.
4. The payment of your grazing fees is due on or before the date specified in the grazing bill. This date is generally the opening date of your allotment. If payment is not received within 15 days of the due date, you will be charged a late fee assessment of $25 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed $250. Payment with Visa, MasterCard or American Express is accepted. Failure to make payment within 30 days of the due date may result in trespass action.
5. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (G) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (C) and (D), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
6. Grazing use in White Pine County will be in accordance with the Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The Standards and Guidelines have been developed by the respective Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Grazing use will also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.
7. If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met, the permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.
8. The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.

9. The permittee must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of any hazardous or solid wastes as defined in 40 CFR Part 261.

APPENDIX IV

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

Term Grazing Permit Renewal for Harold Rother Farms, Inc.
Railroad Pass Allotment
White Pine County, Nevada

On October 21st, 2008 a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the term grazing permit renewal for Harold Rother Farms, Inc. on the Railroad Pass Allotment in White Pine County, NV. The Railroad Pass Allotment encompasses approximately 27,025 public land acres. The grazing permit area occurs entirely within White Pine County, and is situated approximately 75 miles northwest of Ely, Nevada. The western portion of this allotment borders the Battle Mountain BLM District and the northern portion borders the Elko BLM District. This is a cattle permit with a total grazing preference of 1,800 animal unit months (AUMs). Of these, 1,800 AUMs are active and 0 AUMs are suspended nonuse. The current term permit authorizes approximately 265 head of cattle with a season of use from 06/01 to 09/30. The issuance of the new term grazing permit could be for a period up to ten years.

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. The following species are found within the boundaries of the Railroad Pass allotment:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Cicuta maculata	Water hemlock
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Euphorbia esula	Leafy spurge
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

The following species are found along roads and drainages leading to the area:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Hyoscyamus niger	Black henbane
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Lepidium latifolium	Tall whitetop
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

The Railroad Pass Allotment was last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2002. It should be noted that this allotment borders the BLM Battle Mountain and Elko Districts and no weed inventory

data for these Districts is currently available. While not officially documented the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur in or around the allotment: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*).

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious/invasive weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious/invasive weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious/invasive weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area.
High (8-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (4) at the present time. The proposed action could increase the populations of the noxious and invasive weeds already within the allotment and could aid in the introduction of weeds from surrounding areas. Within the allotment, watering and salt block sites are of particular concern of new weed infestations due to the concentration of livestock around those sites and the amount of ground disturbance associated with that.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.
High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious/invasive weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

This project rates as Moderate (7) at the present time. If new weed infestations establish within the allotment this could have an adverse impact those native plant communities however, since there are many weed infestations currently within the allotment, those impacts would be limited. Also, any increase of cheatgrass could alter the fire regime in the area.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

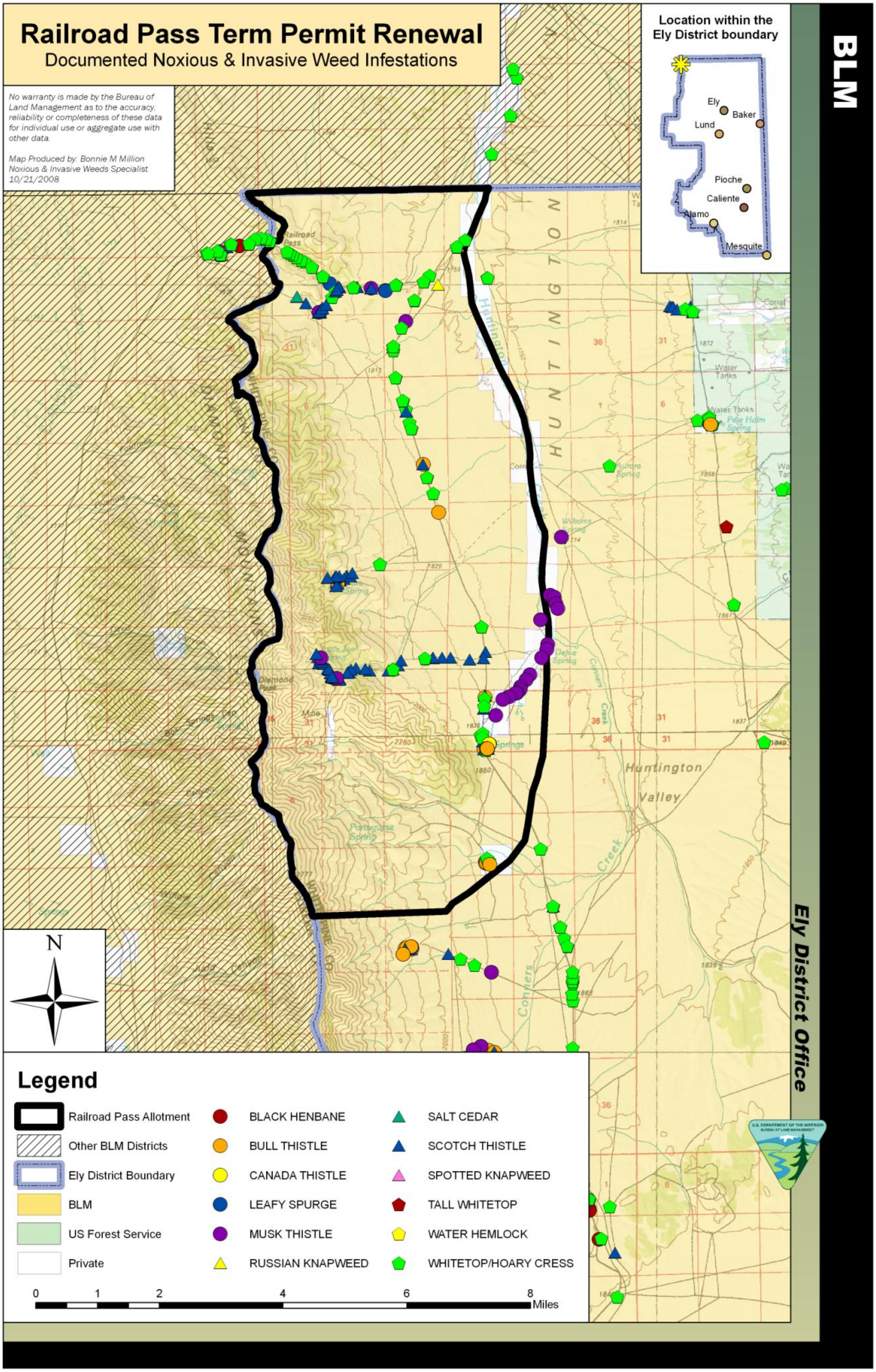
None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious/invasive weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.
High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious/invasive weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

For this project, the Risk Rating is Moderate (32). This indicates that the project can proceed as planned as long as the following measures are followed:

- To eliminate the introduction of noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all interim and final seed mixes, hay, straw, hay/straw, or other organic products used for feed or bedding will be certified free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the BLM Ely District Office.
- Prior to entering public lands, the BLM will provide information regarding noxious weed management and identification to the permit holders affiliated with the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to uninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- The range specialist for the allotments will include weed detection into project compliance inspection activities. If the spread of noxious weeds is noted, appropriated weed control procedures will be determined in consultation with BLM personnel and will be in compliance with the appropriate BLM handbook sections and applicable laws and regulations.
- Grazing will be conducted in compliance with the Ely District BLM noxious weed schedules. The scheduled procedures can significantly and effectively reduce noxious weed spread or introduction into the project area.
- When necessary, control or restrict the timing of livestock movement to minimize the transport of livestock-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes between weed-infested and weed-free areas.
- Any newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds discovered will be communicated to the Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Coordinator for treatment.

Reviewed by: _____ 10/21/2008

Bonnie M. Million — Date
Ely District Noxious & Invasive Weeds Coordinator


Railroad Pass Term Permit Renewal
Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
10/21/2008
Location within the Ely District boundary
Ely
Baker
Lund
Pioche
Caliente
Alamo
Mesquite
BLM
Ely District Office
Railroad Pass
Huntington
Huntington Valley
Portuguese Spring
Conners Creek
N
Legend
Railroad Pass Allotment
Other BLM Districts
Ely District Boundary
BLM
US Forest Service
Private
BLACK HENBANE
BULL THISTLE
CANADA THISTLE
LEAFY SPURGE
MUSK THISTLE
RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
SALT CEDAR
SCOTCH THISTLE
SPOTTED KNAPWEED
TALL WHITETOP
WATER HEMLOCK
WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS
0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

Term Grazing Permit Renewal for Pete Goicoechea
Newark & Railroad Pass Allotments
White Pine County, Nevada

On October 21st, 2008 a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the term grazing permit renewal for Pete Goicoechea on the Newark and Railroad Pass Allotments in White Pine County, NV. The Newark Allotment encompasses approximately 218,105 public land acres. The grazing allotment is situated approximately 45 miles west of Ely, Nevada. The Railroad Pass Allotment encompasses approximately 27,025 public land acres. The grazing allotment is situated approximately 75 miles northwest of Ely, Nevada. Currently this is two separate grazing permits with separate authorizations that will be combined into one. The Newark Allotment is a cattle and sheep allotment with a total grazing preference of 9,709 animal unit months (AUMs). Of these, 7,101 AUMs are active and 2,608 AUMs are suspended nonuse. The Railroad Pass Allotment is a cattle permit with a total grazing preference of 511 animal unit months (AUMs). Of these, 511 AUMs are active and 0 AUMs are suspended nonuse. The current term permit authorizes approximately 75 head of cattle with a season of use from 06/01 to 09/30.

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. The following species are found within the boundaries of the Newark allotment:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

The following species are found within the boundaries of the Railroad Pass allotment:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Cicuta maculata	Water hemlock
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Euphorbia esula	Leafy spurge
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

The following species are found along roads and drainages leading to both allotments:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock
Hyoscyamus niger	Black henbane
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Lepidium latifolium	Tall whitetop
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

Both allotments were last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2002. It should be noted that these allotments border the BLM Battle Mountain and/or Elko Districts and no weed inventory data for these Districts is currently available. While not officially documented the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur in or around both allotments: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*).

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious/invasive weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious/invasive weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious/invasive weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area.
High (8-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (4) at the present time. The proposed action could increase the populations of the noxious and invasive weeds already within the allotments and could aid in the introduction of weeds from surrounding areas. Within the allotments, watering and salt block sites are of particular concern of new weed infestations due to the concentration of livestock around those sites and the amount of ground disturbance associated with that.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.
High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious/invasive weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

This project rates as Moderate (7) at the present time. If new weed infestations establish within the allotments this could have an adverse impact those native plant communities however, since there are many weed infestations currently within the allotments, those impacts would be limited. Also, any increase of cheatgrass could alter the fire regime in the area.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious/invasive weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.
High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious/invasive weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

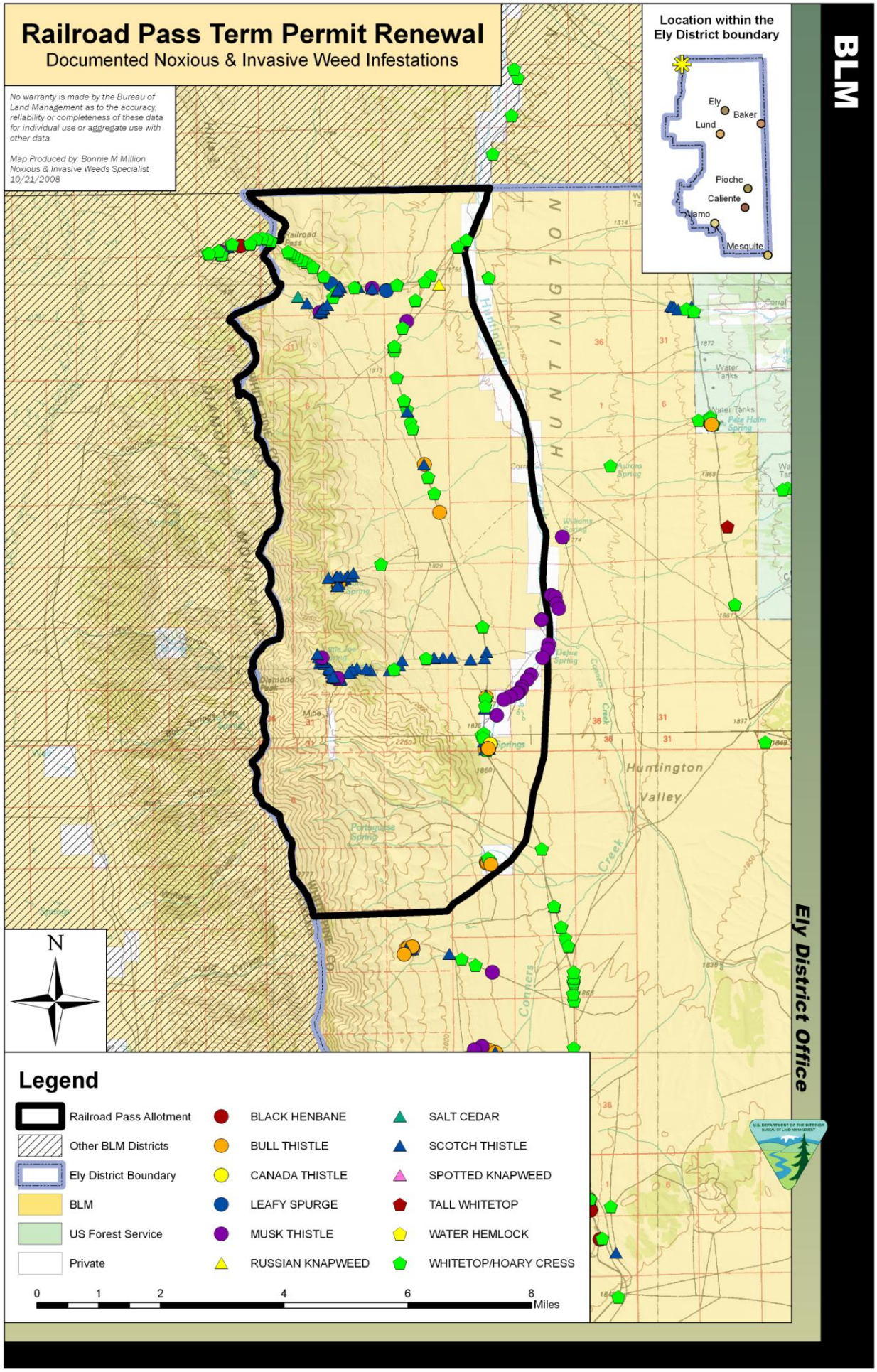
For this project, the Risk Rating is Moderate (32). This indicates that the project can proceed as planned as long as the following measures are followed:

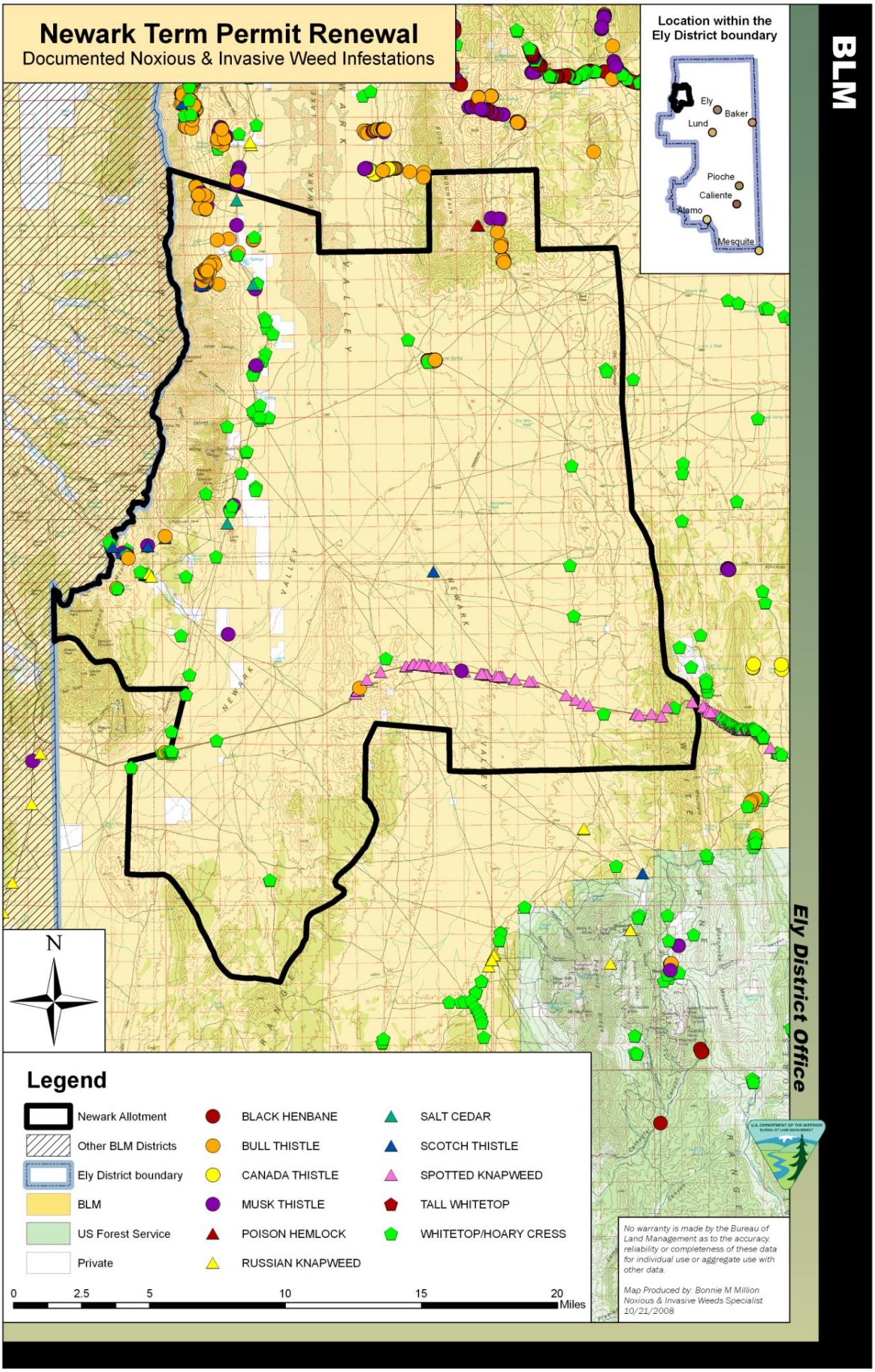
- To eliminate the introduction of noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all interim and final seed mixes, hay, straw, hay/straw, or other organic products used for feed or bedding will be certified free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the BLM Ely District Office.
- Prior to entering public lands, the BLM will provide information regarding noxious weed management and identification to the permit holders affiliated with the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to uninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- The range specialist for the allotments will include weed detection into project compliance inspection activities. If the spread of noxious weeds is noted, appropriated weed control procedures will be determined in consultation with BLM personnel and will be in compliance with the appropriate BLM handbook sections and applicable laws and regulations.
- Grazing will be conducted in compliance with the Ely District BLM noxious weed schedules. The scheduled procedures can significantly and effectively reduce noxious weed spread or introduction into the project area.

- When necessary, control or restrict the timing of livestock movement to minimize the transport of livestock-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes between weed-infested and weed-free areas.
- Any newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds discovered will be communicated to the Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Coordinator for treatment.

Reviewed by: _____ 10/21/2008

Bonnie M. Million — Date
Ely District Noxious & Invasive Weeds Coordinator


Railroad Pass Term Permit Renewal
Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
10/21/2008
Location within the Ely District boundary
Ely
Baker
Lund
Pioche
Caliente
Alamo
Mesquite
BLM
Ely District Office
HUNTINGTON
DIAMOND MOUNTAINS
Huntington Valley
Creek
Railroad Pass
Water Tanks
Pete Holm Spring
Aurora Spring
Williams Spring
Portuguese Spring
Diamond Peak
Corral
N
Legend
Railroad Pass Allotment
Other BLM Districts
Ely District Boundary
BLM
US Forest Service
Private
BLACK HENBANE
BULL THISTLE
CANADA THISTLE
LEAFY SPURGE
MUSK THISTLE
RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
SALT CEDAR
SCOTCH THISTLE
SPOTTED KNAPWEED
TALL WHITETOP
WATER HEMLOCK
WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS
0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles


Newark Term Permit Renewal
Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations
Location within the Ely District boundary
Ely
Baker
Lund
Pioche
Caliente
Alamo
Mesquite
BLM
Ely District Office
N
Legend
Newark Allotment
Other BLM Districts
Ely District boundary
BLM
US Forest Service
Private
BLACK HENBANE
BULL THISTLE
CANADA THISTLE
MUSK THISTLE
POISON HEMLOCK
RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
SALT CEDAR
SCOTCH THISTLE
SPOTTED KNAPWEED
TALL WHITETOP
WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS
0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
10/21/2008

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

Term Grazing Permit Renewal for Paris Livestock
Cold Creek, Corta, Duckwater, Newark, Railroad Pass, Sand Springs, South Pancake, & Warm Springs Trail Allotments
Nye & White Pine County, Nevada

On November 6th, 2008 a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the term grazing permit renewal for Paris Livestock for the Cold Creek, Corta, Duckwater, Newark, Railroad Pass, Sand Springs, South Pancake, and Warm Springs Trail Allotments in Nye and White Pine Counties, NV. The current term permit is issued for the period 10/15/2006 to 10/14/2016. The following table outlines what the current term permit authorizes.

Allotment/Pasture	Number & Kind of Livestock	Use Period	AUMS
Sand Springs	934 Sheep	11/01 to 03/31	927
	1198 Sheep	11/01 to 03/31	1190
Railroad Pass	467 Sheep	04/05 to 11/15	691
Cold Creek	1182 Sheep	04/15 to 4/30	124
	1200 Sheep	11/01 to 11/15	118
Newark	1642 Sheep	04/01 to 04/30	324
	1642 Sheep	11/01 to 11/30	324
South Pancake	2268 Sheep	03/15 to 04/30	701
	1114 Sheep	11/15 to 01/15	454
Warm Springs Trail	2750 Sheep	04/15 to 05/01	307
	2754 Sheep	11/15 to 12/01	308
Duckwater	1572 Sheep	12/15 to 03/31	1106
	1122 Sheep	01/01 to 03/31	664
Corta	4850 Sheep	05/01 to 05/04	128
Railroad Pass/Corta Seeding	365 Sheep	04/05 to 11/15	540

Within the Duckwater Allotment the following use areas would be used: Bull Corner/Poison Patch, Little Smokey Valley, North Sand Springs Valley, Pancake East Bench/Duckwater Valley, Pogues Station, and South Sand Springs Valley. The issuance of the new term grazing permit could be for a period up to ten years. An evaluation of the range monitoring data and rangeland health will be conducted for the Cold Creek, Corta, Duckwater, Newark, Railroad Pass, Sand Springs, South Pancake, and Warm Springs Trail Allotments.

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. The following species are found within the boundaries of the Cold Creek Allotment:

Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Hyoscyamus niger	Black henbane
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Lepidium latifolium	Tall whitetop
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle

The following species are found within the boundaries of the use areas for this permit in the Duckwater Allotment:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Lepidium latifolium	Tall whitetop
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

The following species are found within the boundaries of the Newark Allotment:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

The following species are found within the boundaries of the Railroad Pass Allotment:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Cicuta maculata	Water hemlock
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Euphorbia esula	Leafy spurge
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

The following species is found within the boundaries of the South Pancake Allotment:

Lepidium draba	Hoary cress

The following species are found along the Warm Springs Trail Allotment:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Hyoscyamus niger	Black henbane

Lepidium draba	Hoary cress

The following species are found along roads and drainages leading to all allotments:

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Cicuta maculate	Water hemlock
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Bull thistle
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock
Euphorbia esula	Leafy spurge
Hyoscyamus niger	Black henbane
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress
Lepidium latifolium	Tall whitetop
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

These areas were last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2002, 2003 and 2005. It should be noted that these allotments border the BLM Battle Mountain or Elko Districts or, in the case of the Corta and Sand Springs Allotments, are entirely within them. No weed inventory data for these Districts is currently available. While not officially documented the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur in or around both allotments: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*).

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious/invasive weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious/invasive weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious/invasive weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area.
High (8-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (4) at the present time. The proposed action could increase the populations of the noxious and invasive weeds already within the allotments and could aid in the introduction of weeds from surrounding areas. Within the allotments, watering and salt block sites are of particular concern of new weed infestations due to the concentration of livestock around those sites and the amount of ground disturbance associated with that.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.
High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious/invasive weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

This project rates as Moderate (7) at the present time. If new weed infestations establish within the allotments this could have an adverse impact those native plant communities however, since there are many weed infestations currently within the allotments, those impacts would be limited. Also, any increase of cheatgrass could alter the fire regime in the area.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious/invasive weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.
High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious/invasive weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

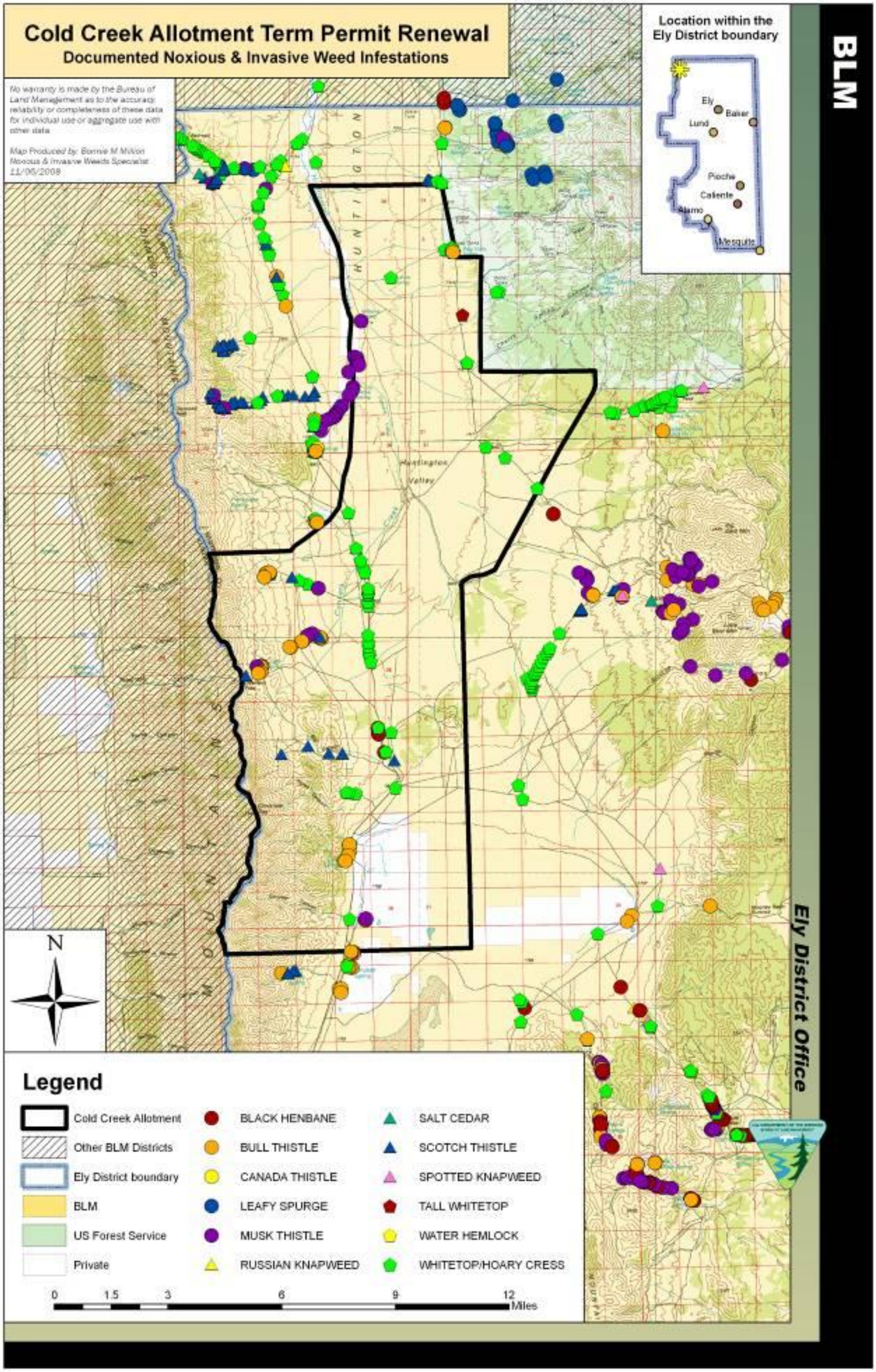
For this project, the Risk Rating is Moderate (32). This indicates that the project can proceed as planned as long as the following measures are followed:

- To eliminate the introduction of noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all interim and final seed mixes, hay, straw, hay/straw, or other organic products used for feed or bedding will be certified free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the BLM Ely District Office.
- Prior to entering public lands, the BLM will provide information regarding noxious weed management and identification to the permit holders affiliated with the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to uninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- The range specialist for the allotments will include weed detection into project compliance inspection activities. If the spread of noxious weeds is noted, appropriated weed control procedures will be determined in consultation with BLM personnel and will be in compliance with the appropriate BLM handbook sections and applicable laws and regulations.
- Grazing will be conducted in compliance with the Ely District BLM noxious weed schedules. The scheduled procedures can significantly and effectively reduce noxious weed spread or introduction into the project area.
- Control or restrict the timing of livestock movement to minimize the transport of livestock-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes between weed-infested and weed-free areas.

- Any newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds discovered will be communicated to the Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Coordinator for treatment.

Reviewed by: _____ 11/6/2008

Bonnie M. Million Date
Ely District Noxious & Invasive Weeds Coordinator



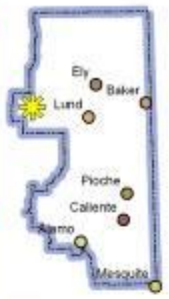
Cold Creek Allotment Term Permit Renewal
Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
11/06/2008
Location within the Ely District boundary
Ely
Baker
Lund
Pioche
Caliente
Alamo
Mesquite
BLM
Huntington Valley
Ely District Office
N
Legend
Cold Creek Allotment
Other BLM Districts
Ely District boundary
BLM
US Forest Service
Private
BLACK HENBANE
BULL THISTLE
CANADA THISTLE
LEAFY SPURGE
MUSK THISTLE
RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
SALT CEDAR
SCOTCH THISTLE
SPOTTED KNAPWEED
TALL WHITETOP
WATER HEMLOCK
WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS
0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Miles

Duckwater Allotment Term Permit Renewal

Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations

Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
11/06/2008

Location within the Ely District boundary



BLM

Ely District Office

Pogues Station

Bull Corner/Poison Patch

Little Smokey Valley

Pancake East Bench/Duckwater Valley

North Sand Springs Valley

South Sand Springs Valley

N

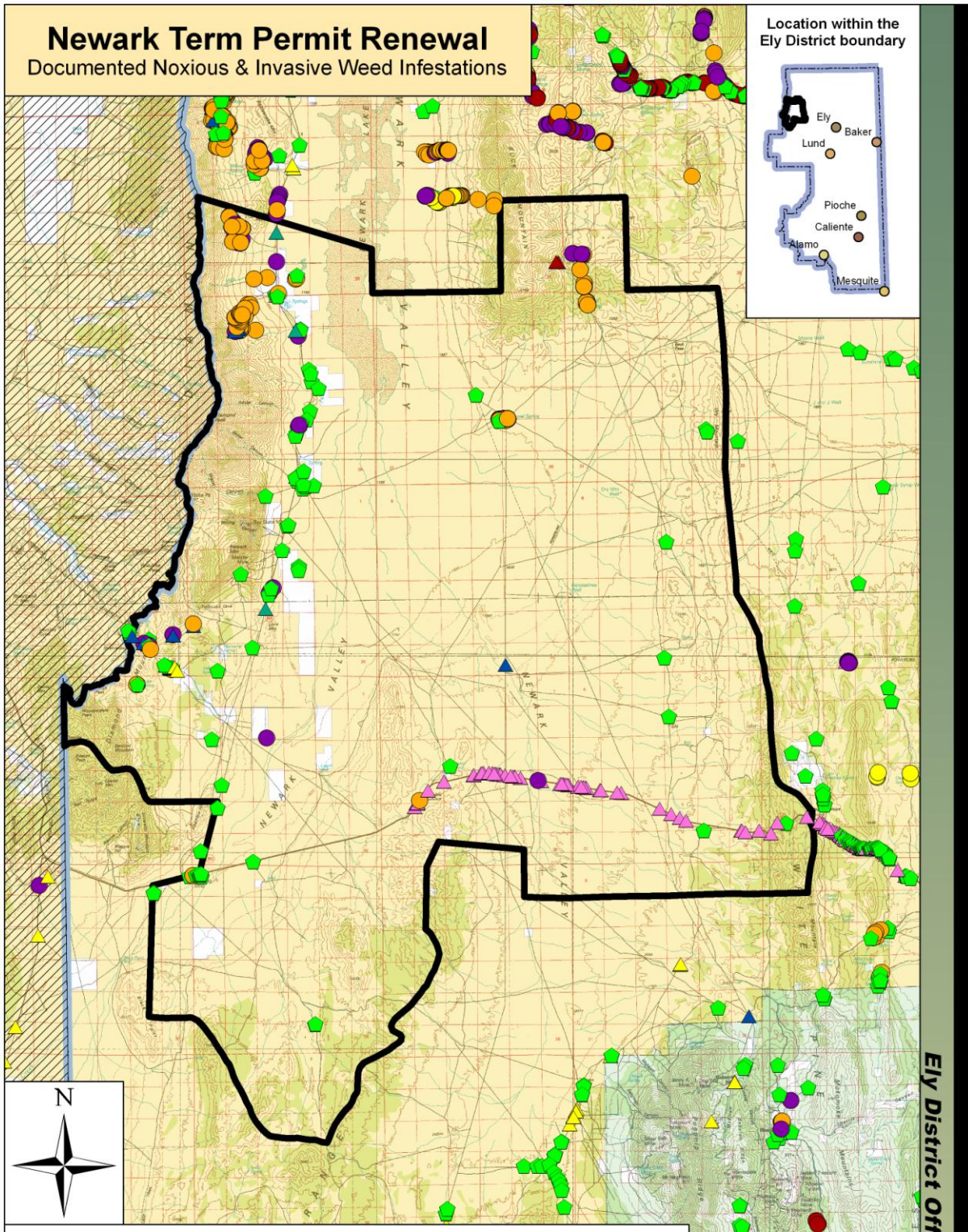
Legend

- Duckwater Use Areas
- Duckwater Allotment
- Other BLM Districts
- Ely District boundary
- BLM
- US Forest Service
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
- Private
- BLACK HENBANE
- BULL THISTLE
- CANADA THISTLE
- MUSK THISTLE
- RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
- SALT CEDAR
- SCOTCH THISTLE
- SPOTTED KNAPWEED
- TALL WHITETOP
- WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Newark Term Permit Renewal

Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations



BLM

Ely District Office

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
10/21/2008

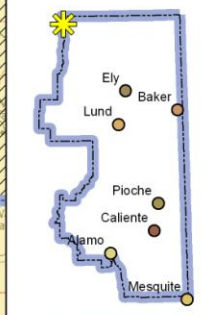
Railroad Pass Term Permit Renewal

Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
10/21/2008

Location within the Ely District boundary



BLM

Ely District Office

N

Legend

- Railroad Pass Allotment
- Other BLM Districts
- Ely District Boundary
- BLM
- US Forest Service
- Private

- BLACK HENBANE
- BULL THISTLE
- CANADA THISTLE
- LEAFY SPURGE
- MUSK THISTLE
- RUSSIAN KNAPWEED

- SALT CEDAR
- SCOTCH THISTLE
- SPOTTED KNAPWEED
- TALL WHITETOP
- WATER HEMLOCK
- WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

South Pancake Allotment Term Permit Renewal

Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations

BLM

Ely District Office

NEWARK

VALLEY

RANGE

Legend

- South Pancake Allotment
- BLM
- US Forest Service
- Private
- BULL THISTLE
- MUSK THISTLE
- RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
- SPOTTED KNAPWEED
- WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS

N

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
11/06/2008

Warm Springs Trail Term Permit Renewal

Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations